



Keeping college affordable

Governor Branstad supports ongoing efforts to make the cost of education more affordable for students and their families. The average student loan debt in Iowa for 2013 was [\\$29,370](#), according to The Institute for College Access & Success – ranking ninth worst in the nation. That is why Governor Branstad is working to freeze resident undergraduate tuition for a third consecutive year at Iowa’s three public universities and to increase Iowa Tuition Grant funding for Iowa’s independent colleges and universities.

Historic Tuition Freeze

Freezing tuition for a third consecutive year and increasing Iowa Tuition Grant funding will help make it possible for more students to attend Iowa’s outstanding public and private colleges and universities, building on the work being done to improve achievement in elementary and secondary education. Last year, Governor Branstad proposed and signed into law a tuition freeze for the second straight year for Iowa students. This was only the second two-year tuition freeze [in three decades](#) in Iowa.

Fixed-Price Degrees

In keeping with the goal of making higher education more affordable, Governor Branstad has challenged the Iowa Board of Regents to work with Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and the University of Northern Iowa to design \$10,000 fixed-price degrees in some majors. He also wants the Regents and three state universities to look at how to reduce the cost of some other degrees substantially.

Student Debt Reduction Tax Credits

The governor plans to further address student loan debt by letting students reduce what they owe by performing community service. A portion of a student’s debt would be paid off using donations by Iowans who receive a tax credit for charitable giving to a Student Debt Reduction Organization (SDRO).

Working similarly to the successful School Tuition Organizations, Iowans could donate to SDROs who would work with partner charities. A student could volunteer with an Iowa charitable organization affiliated with an SDRO and after completing a designated amount of service have a payment towards the student’s debt made by the SDRO. The statewide amount of the tax credit is capped in the initial year at \$2 million.